GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3390
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001
COAL MINES UNDER EXPLORATION
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a): the capacity of coal mines under exploration presently in the country and how long the coal deposits in these mines are expected to last;

(b): whether the Government propose to take steps to identify new potential for exploration of coal mines;

(c): is so, the details thereof;

(d): whether the deposits are too deep to make mining uneconomical;

(e): whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the feasibility of direct classification of coal; and

(f): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a): Normaly it takes 2 to 3 years to complete Detailed Explorationin a block to prove the reserves for the purpose of mine planning and designing. A project report is prepared after completion o f exploration and preparation of the geological report to assess mineable reserves and capacity of the mine. Hence, for the coal mines/blocks under exploration, capacity of the mine can not be indicated.

Sub-Group on Coal & Lignite exploration for IX plan document(July,1986) has estimated 29.91 billion tonesof extractable/recoverable coal reserves based on proved reserves of 68.5 billion tones upto 600 M. depth out of a total reserves of the country estimated at 202 billion tones from 0-1200 M. depth. The recoverable reserves as estimated are as follows:-

Coal Type	Recoverable coal reserves upto 600 M. Depth(BT)		
	Opencast	Underground	Total
Coking	2.53	1.88	4.41
Non-coking	18.50	6.30	24.8
Total	21.03	8.18	29.21

Assuming a rate of coal production of 350 Million Tonnes during 2006-07 and beyond by CIL,the life of recoverable proved reserves as on 1-1-96 is expected to be about 85 years. However, about 3 to 4 billion tones of proved reserves are being added on an annual basis as a result of detailed exploration by CMPDI.As on 1-1- 2001, the total reserves of the country is 214 bilion tones from 0-1200 M. depth out of which proved reserves from 0-600 M. Depth is 82.7 Billion Tonnes.

(b) & (c): The identification of new potential blocks for new coal mines is carried out through regional exploration efforts by Geological Survey o f India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute from the promotional fund provided by Ministry of Coal. Currently, regional exploration for Coal and Lignite is being carried out in 21 coal blocks and in 9 lignite areas under the promotional exploration scheme approved by government for the IXth plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 147 crores, apart from the blocks under exploration by the GSI under regionalexploration scheme from their own fund, the details of which may be obtained from Geological Survey of India. The potential new blocks identified from regional exploration are taken up for detailed

drilling for the purpose of formulation of geological report and mining projects.

(d): As per inventory of coal reserves as on 1-1- 2001(G.S.I.). The category wise and depth wise reserves are as follows:-

DEPTH(M)	PROVED(MT)	INDICATED(MT)	INFERRED(MT)	TOTAL(MT)
0-300	62,215.70	54,333.40	17,898.38	135,447.48
300-600	5,818.72	26,306.07	17,176.47	49,301.26
0-	13,710.33	502.09	0	14,212.42
600 (FOR JHARIA ONLY)				
600-1200	1,689.18	9,100.26	4,174.91	14,944.35
TOTAL	84,413.93	90,241.82	39,249.76	213,905.51

The above table indicates that about 63% of reserves fall within the depth of 0-300 M. where presently mining activities are concentrated either by opencast or underground method. In case of underground mines, Coal with grade A, B and C can be worked economically upto 300 M. Depth. The underground mines up to 300 M. Depthand beyond are not economical for Grade 'D' 'E''F' & 'G' coal.

(e) & (f): No, Sir.